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RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
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RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY
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INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 1489
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RUEHKSO/AMCONSUL SAPPORO 2055
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 5280
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 6882
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 2656
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 2883
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 2974
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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 TOKYO 003437

SIPDIS

STATE FOR I/RF, PA/PR/FPC/W, IIP/G/EA, EAP/PD, R/MR,
EAP/J, EAP/P, PM;
USTR FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE;
TREASURY FOR OASIA/IMI;
SECDEF FOR OASD/PA;
CP BUTLER OKINAWA FOR AREA FIELD OFFICE;
PACOM HONOLULU FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY ADVISOR

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [OIIP](#) [KMDR](#) [KPAO](#) [JA](#)

SUBJECT: TOKYO MEDIA REACTION - WTO, WAR ON TERROR,
U.S. ENVIRONMENT POLICY, AND THAILAND

11. LEAD STORIES: Most Wednesday morning dailies front-
paged a GOJ panel decision to stipulate in the GOJ's
mid-term tax reform program a phased increase in the
consumption tax starting in fiscal 2011.

12. "Failure No Longer Acceptable" On the WTO failure to
convene a ministerial on the Doha Round trade
liberalization talks, the liberal Asahi editorialized
(12/17): "A Doha Round agreement within this year was
proposed by G20 leaders in an attempt to head off
increased protectionism or decline in global trade. The
failure to reach an agreement will call into question
the determination of the major economic powers. On the
contrary, it may have reminded the world of the
paramount difficulties awaiting the global economy.
There may be countries that set up trade barriers to
prioritize their domestic economy or form an exclusive
trading bloc.... The disappearance of a global
consensus for maintaining free trade would shrink the
volume of global trade, which would in turn exacerbate
the economic crisis. It must not be forgotten that
protectionism eventually led to a world war in the
past."

13. "Armed Groups Gaining Influence in Pakistan" A
correspondent for the liberal Mainichi stated in a
dispatch from New Delhi (12/17): "In response to the
terror attacks in Mumbai last month, the Pakistani
military has ceased operations to crack down on armed
groups near the border with Afghanistan, leading to
increasing influence on the part of these militias.
This demonstrates the incompetence in the war on terror
of the Pakistani military, which has been under
pressure following cross-border attacks by the U.S.

military and criticism of Pakistan by India concerning the Mumbai assault. The war on terror in South Asia appears to be heading toward a stalemate."

¶4. "Dream Team in the Offing" The top-circulation, moderate Yomiuri wrote from Washington (12/17): "With his appointment of top energy and environment advisors, President-elect Obama took the first step toward fulfilling his election pledges to promote the use of renewable energy and deal with climate change. By naming an 'environmental dream team,' the President-elect has made clear his position of reversing the Bush administration's reactive approach to the environment and taking the initiative. However, difficulties still lie ahead before his campaign pledges can be realized."

¶5. "Change in U.S. Environment Policy" The business-oriented Nikkei reported from Washington (12/17): "The lineup of the incoming Obama administration's environment and energy policy team has been determined. The appointment of a scientist who calls for less dependence on oil as energy secretary signals a clear turnaround in U.S. environment policy. With the creation of the post of special assistant to the president on energy and climate change, the Obama administration is set to place emphasis on international cooperation on the issue of global warming and exercise leadership in global efforts to reduce greenhouse gases."

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¶6. "National Reconciliation Urgently Needed" On the election of new Thai Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva, the liberal Tokyo Shimbun wrote in an editorial (12/17): "The new administration must rectify economic disparities by implementing measures to assist farmers, who are strong supporters of former Prime Minister Thaksin.... Economic reconstruction is also crucial. Thai politics has been in disarray in the midst of the worldwide financial crisis. Until it extricates the nation's economy from the turbulence, the new government is bound to face difficulties."

SCHIEFFER